

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 470

To combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Combating Organized  
5       Retail Crime Act of 2009”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Organized retail crime involves the coordi-  
2           nated acquisition of large volumes of retail merchan-  
3           dise by theft, embezzlement, fraud, false pretenses,  
4           or other illegal means from commercial entities en-  
5           gaged in interstate commerce, for the purpose of  
6           selling or distributing such illegally obtained items in  
7           the stream of commerce. Organized retail crime is a  
8           growing problem nationwide that costs American  
9           companies and consumers billions of dollars annually  
10          and that has a substantial and direct effect upon  
11          interstate commerce.

12          (2) The illegal acquisition and black-market  
13          sale of merchandise by persons engaged in organized  
14          retail crime result in an estimated annual loss of  
15          hundreds of millions of dollars in sales and income  
16          tax revenues to State and local governments.

17          (3) The illegal acquisition, unsafe tampering  
18          and storage, and unregulated redistribution of con-  
19          sumer products such as baby formula, over-the-  
20          counter drugs, medical diagnostic tests, and other  
21          items by persons engaged in organized retail crime  
22          pose a health and safety hazard to consumers na-  
23          tionwide.

24          (4) Investigations into organized retail crime  
25          have revealed that the illegal income resulting from

1       such crime often benefits persons and organizations  
2       engaged in other forms of criminal activity, such as  
3       drug trafficking and gang activity.

4           (5) Items obtained through organized retail  
5       crime are resold in a variety of different market-  
6       places, including flea markets, swap meets, open-air  
7       markets, and Internet auction websites. Increasingly,  
8       persons engaged in organized retail crime use Inter-  
9       net auction websites to resell illegally obtained items.  
10      The Internet offers such sellers a worldwide market  
11      and a degree of anonymity that physical marketplace  
12      settings do not offer.

13   **SEC. 3. OFFENSES RELATED TO ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME.**

14      (a) TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN GOODS.—The first  
15      undesignated paragraph of section 2314 of title 18,  
16      United States Code, is amended by inserting after “more,”  
17      the following: “or, during any 12-month period, of an ag-  
18      gregate value of \$5,000 or more during that period,”.

19      (b) SALE OR RECEIPT OF STOLEN GOODS.—The first  
20      undesignated paragraph of section 2315 of title 18,  
21      United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
22      “\$5,000 or more,” the following: “or, during any 12-  
23      month period, of an aggregate value of \$5,000 or more  
24      during that period,”.

1       (c) FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH ACCESS DE-  
 2 VICES.—Section 1029(e)(1) of title 18, United States  
 3 Code, is amended by inserting “Universal Product Code  
 4 label or similar product code label, gift card, stock keeping  
 5 unit number, radio-frequency identification tag, electronic  
 6 article surveillance tag,” after “code,”.

7       (d) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL SEN-  
 8 TENCING GUIDELINES FOR OFFENSES RELATED TO OR-  
 9 GANIZED RETAIL CRIME.—

10           (1) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—

11               (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Sen-  
 12 tencing Commission, pursuant to its authority  
 13 under section 994 of title 28, United States  
 14 Code, and in accordance with this subsection,  
 15 shall review and, if appropriate, amend the  
 16 Federal sentencing guidelines (including its pol-  
 17 icy statements) applicable to persons convicted  
 18 of offenses involving organized retail crime,  
 19 which is the coordinated acquisition of large  
 20 volumes of retail merchandise by theft, embez-  
 21 zlement, fraud, false pretenses, or other illegal  
 22 means from commercial entities engaged in  
 23 interstate commerce for the purpose of selling  
 24 or distributing the illegally obtained items in  
 25 the stream of commerce.

1 (B) OFFENSES.—Offenses referred to in  
2 subparagraph (A) may include offenses con-  
3 tained in—

4 (i) sections 1029, 2314, and 2315 of  
5 title 18, United States Code; and

6 (ii) any other relevant provision of the  
7 United States Code.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the re-  
9 quirements of this subsection, the United States  
10 Sentencing Commission shall—

11 (A) ensure that the Federal sentencing  
12 guidelines (including its policy statements) re-  
13 flect—

14 (i) the serious nature and magnitude  
15 of organized retail crime; and

16 (ii) the need to deter, prevent, and  
17 punish offenses involving organized retail  
18 crime;

19 (B) consider the extent to which the Fed-  
20 eral sentencing guidelines (including its policy  
21 statements) adequately address offenses involv-  
22 ing organized retail crime to sufficiently deter  
23 and punish such offenses;

1 (C) maintain reasonable consistency with  
2 other relevant directives and sentencing guide-  
3 lines;

4 (D) account for any additional aggravating  
5 or mitigating circumstances that might justify  
6 exceptions to the generally applicable sentencing  
7 ranges; and

8 (E) consider whether to provide a sen-  
9 tencing enhancement for those convicted of con-  
10 duct involving organized retail crime, where the  
11 conduct involves—

12 (i) a threat to public health and safe-  
13 ty, including alteration of an expiration  
14 date or of product ingredients;

15 (ii) theft, conversion, alteration, or re-  
16 moval of a product label;

17 (iii) a second or subsequent offense;

18 or

19 (iv) the use of advanced technology to  
20 acquire retail merchandise by means of  
21 theft, embezzlement, fraud, false pretenses,  
22 or other illegal means.

1 **SEC. 4. SALES OF ILLEGALLY OBTAINED ITEMS IN PHYS-**  
 2 **ICAL OR ONLINE RETAIL MARKETPLACES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 113 of title 18, United  
 4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 5 lowing:

6 **“§ 2324. Physical and online retail marketplaces**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the fol-  
 8 lowing definitions shall apply:

9 “(1) HIGH VOLUME SELLER.—The term ‘high  
 10 volume seller’ means a user of an online retail mar-  
 11 ketplace who, in any continuous 12-month period  
 12 during the previous 24 months, has entered into—

13 “(A) multiple discrete sales or transactions  
 14 resulting in the accumulation of an aggregate  
 15 total of \$12,000 or more in gross revenues; or

16 “(B) 200 or more discrete sales or trans-  
 17 actions resulting in the accumulation of an ag-  
 18 gregate total of \$5,000 or more in gross reve-  
 19 nues.

20 “(2) INTERNET SITE.—The term ‘Internet site’  
 21 means a location on the Internet that is accessible  
 22 at a specific Internet domain name or address under  
 23 the Internet Protocol (or any successor protocol), or  
 24 that is identified by a uniform resource locator.

25 “(3) ONLINE RETAIL MARKETPLACE.—The  
 26 term ‘online retail marketplace’ means an Internet

1 site where users other than the operator of the  
 2 Internet site can enter into transactions with each  
 3 other for the sale or distribution of goods or serv-  
 4 ices, and in which—

5 “(A) the goods or services are promoted  
 6 through inclusion in search results displayed  
 7 within the Internet site;

8 “(B) the operator of the Internet site—

9 “(i) has the contractual right to su-  
 10 pervise the activities of users with respect  
 11 to the goods or services; or

12 “(ii) has a financial interest in the  
 13 sale of the goods or services; and

14 “(C) in any continuous 12-month period  
 15 during the previous 24 months, users other  
 16 than the operator of the Internet site collec-  
 17 tively have entered into not fewer than 1,000  
 18 discrete transactions for the sale of goods or  
 19 services.

20 “(4) OPERATOR OF AN ONLINE RETAIL MAR-  
 21 KETPLACE.—The term ‘operator of an online retail  
 22 marketplace’ means a person or entity that—

23 “(A) operates or controls an online retail  
 24 marketplace; and



1           “(B) makes the online retail marketplace  
 2           available for users to enter into transactions  
 3           with each other on that marketplace for the  
 4           sale or distribution of goods or services.

5           “(5) OPERATOR OF A PHYSICAL RETAIL MAR-  
 6           KETPLACE.—The term ‘operator of a physical retail  
 7           marketplace’ means a person or entity that rents or  
 8           otherwise makes available a physical retail market-  
 9           place to transient vendors to conduct business for  
 10          the sale of goods, or services related to the goods.

11          “(6) PHYSICAL RETAIL MARKETPLACE.—The  
 12          term ‘physical retail marketplace’—

13               “(A) may include a flea market, indoor or  
 14               outdoor swap meet, open air market, or other  
 15               similar environment;

16               “(B) means a venue or event—

17                       “(i) in which physical space is made  
 18                       available not more than 4 days per week  
 19                       by an operator of a physical retail market-  
 20                       place as a temporary place of business for  
 21                       transient vendors to conduct business for  
 22                       the sale of goods, or services related to the  
 23                       goods; and

24                       “(ii) in which in any continuous 12-  
 25                       month period during the preceding 24

1 months, there have been 10 or more days  
2 on which 5 or more transient vendors have  
3 conducted business at the venue or event;  
4 and

5 “(C) does not mean and shall not apply to  
6 an event which is organized and conducted for  
7 the exclusive benefit of any community chest,  
8 fund, foundation, association, or corporation or-  
9 ganized and operated for religious, educational,  
10 or charitable purposes, provided that no part of  
11 any admission fee or parking fee charged ven-  
12 dors or prospective purchasers, and no part of  
13 the gross receipts or net earnings from the sale  
14 or exchange of goods or services, whether in the  
15 form of a percentage of the receipts or earn-  
16 ings, salary, or otherwise, inures to the benefit  
17 of any private shareholder or person partici-  
18 pating in the organization or conduct of the  
19 event.

20 “(7) STRUCTURING.—The term ‘structuring’  
21 means to knowingly conduct, or attempt to conduct,  
22 alone, or in conjunction with or on behalf of 1 or  
23 more other persons, 1 or more transactions in cur-  
24 rency, in any amount, in any manner, with the pur-  
25 pose of evading categorization as a physical retail

1 marketplace, an online retail marketplace, or a high  
2 volume seller.

3 “(8) TEMPORARY PLACE OF BUSINESS.—The  
4 term ‘temporary place of business’ means any phys-  
5 ical space made open to the public, including but not  
6 limited to a building, part of a building, tent or va-  
7 cant lot, which is temporarily occupied by 1 or more  
8 persons or entities for the purpose of making sales  
9 of goods, or services related to those goods, to the  
10 public. A place of business is not temporary with re-  
11 spect to a person or entity if that person or entity  
12 conducts business at the place and stores unsold  
13 goods there when it is not open for business.

14 “(9) TRANSIENT VENDOR.—The term ‘transient  
15 vendor’ means any person or entity that, in the  
16 usual course of business, transports inventory,  
17 stocks of goods, or similar tangible personal property  
18 to a temporary place of business for the purpose of  
19 entering into transactions for the sale of the prop-  
20 erty.

21 “(10) USER.—The term ‘user’ means a person  
22 or entity that accesses an online retail marketplace  
23 for the purpose of entering into transactions for the  
24 sale or distribution of goods or services.

1           “(11) VALID PHYSICAL POSTAL ADDRESS.—The  
2       term ‘valid physical postal address’ means—

3           “(A) a current street address, including  
4       the city, State, and zip code;

5           “(B) a Post Office box that has been reg-  
6       istered with the United States Postal Service;  
7       or

8           “(C) a private mailbox that has been reg-  
9       istered with a commercial mail receiving agency  
10      that is established pursuant to United States  
11      Postal Service regulations.

12      “(b) SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SALES OF ILLEGALLY  
13   OBTAINED ITEMS.—

14      “(1) SUSPECTED ILLEGAL SALES ACTIVITY  
15   FORMS.—

16      “(A) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney Gen-  
17      eral shall promulgate regulations—

18           “(i) establishing a form, called a ‘sus-  
19      pected illegal sales activity form’, through  
20      which an authorized person may present  
21      evidence showing that a transient vendor  
22      of a physical retail marketplace, a user of  
23      an online retail marketplace, or a director,  
24      officer, employee, or agent of the transient  
25      vendor or user, has used or is using a

1 physical retail marketplace or an online re-  
2 tail marketplace to sell or distribute items  
3 that were stolen, embezzled, or obtained by  
4 fraud, false pretenses, or other illegal  
5 means from the authorized person, or has  
6 engaged in or is engaging in structuring;

7 “(ii) requiring that an authorized per-  
8 son who submits a suspected illegal sales  
9 activity form shall, in a manner to be spec-  
10 ified by the Attorney General—

11 “(I) refer in the form to 1 or  
12 more specific items, individuals, enti-  
13 ties or transactions allegedly involved  
14 in theft, embezzlement, fraud, false  
15 pretenses, structuring, or other illegal  
16 activity;

17 “(II) refer in the form to 1 or  
18 more alleged violations of Federal law;

19 “(III) provide along with the  
20 form documentary evidence sup-  
21 porting the allegations of illegal activ-  
22 ity, which may include—

23 “(aa) video recordings;

24 “(bb) audio recordings;

25 “(cc) sworn affidavits;

1 “(dd) financial, accounting,  
2 business, or sales records;

3 “(ee) records or transcripts  
4 of phone conversations;

5 “(ff) documents that have  
6 been filed in a Federal or State  
7 court proceeding; and

8 “(gg) signed reports to or  
9 from a law enforcement agency;  
10 and

11 “(IV) sign the form;

12 “(iii) providing that an authorized  
13 person who completes a suspected illegal  
14 sales activity form may submit the form  
15 and accompanying documentary evidence  
16 to the operator of a physical retail market-  
17 place or the operator of an online retail  
18 marketplace, and that if the authorized  
19 person submits the form to the operator,  
20 the authorized person shall submit the  
21 form and documentary evidence to the At-  
22 torney General; and

23 “(iv) ensuring that a suspected illegal  
24 sales activity form and accompanying doc-  
25 umentary evidence are able to be submitted

1 by an authorized person to the operator of  
2 a physical retail marketplace or online re-  
3 tail marketplace and to the Attorney Gen-  
4 eral by mail and by electronic means.

5 “(B) AUTHORIZED PERSONS.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
7 this section, an authorized person is a per-  
8 son who—

9 “(I) offers goods or services for  
10 sale to the public as part of a business  
11 operation;

12 “(II) has submitted to the Attor-  
13 ney General in writing, on a form that  
14 shall be promulgated by the Attorney  
15 General and made available on the  
16 Internet, a request to serve as an au-  
17 thorized person; and

18 “(III) has been approved by the  
19 Attorney General to serve as an au-  
20 thorized person.

21 “(ii) APPROVAL.—The Attorney Gen-  
22 eral shall approve a request by a person to  
23 serve as an authorized person if the person  
24 offers goods or services for sale to the pub-  
25 lic as part of a business operation. An ap-

1           proval under this clause shall remain in ef-  
2           fect unless the authorized person requests  
3           that the Attorney General terminate the  
4           approval.

5           “(iii) FEES.—The Attorney General  
6           may charge a processing fee to a person  
7           solely to cover the cost of processing the  
8           approval of the person as an authorized  
9           person.

10          “(iv) AGENTS.—An individual who  
11          serves as an officer, employee, or agent for  
12          a person who offers goods or services for  
13          sale to the public as part of a business op-  
14          eration may serve as an authorized person  
15          on behalf of that person.

16          “(v) LIST.—The Attorney General  
17          shall maintain a list of authorized persons,  
18          which shall be made available to the public  
19          upon request.

20          “(C) AVAILABILITY OF FORMS.—The At-  
21          torney General shall make suspected illegal  
22          sales activity forms available on the Internet to  
23          authorized persons.

24          “(2) DUTIES OF OPERATORS OF PHYSICAL RE-  
25          TAIL MARKETPLACES AND ONLINE RETAIL MARKET-



1 PLACES TO CONDUCT ACCOUNT REVIEWS AND FILE  
 2 SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTS; CONSUMABLE  
 3 GOODS.—If an operator of a physical or online retail  
 4 marketplace is presented with a suspected illegal  
 5 sales activity form and accompanying documentary  
 6 evidence from an authorized person showing that a  
 7 transient vendor of the physical retail marketplace,  
 8 a user of the online retail marketplace, or a director,  
 9 officer, employee, or agent of the transient vendor or  
 10 user, has used or is using the retail marketplace to  
 11 sell or distribute items that were stolen, embezzled,  
 12 or obtained by fraud, false pretenses or other illegal  
 13 means, or has engaged in or is engaging in struc-  
 14 turing, the operator shall—

15 “(A)(i) not later than 30 days after receiv-  
 16 ing the form—

17 “(I) conduct a review of the account  
 18 of the transient vendor or user for evidence  
 19 of illegal activity; and

20 “(II) file a suspicious activity report  
 21 with the Attorney General of the United  
 22 States; and

23 “(ii) not later than 24 hours after filing  
 24 the report described in clause (i)(II), notify the  
 25 authorized person who submitted the suspected

1 illegal sales activity form that the operator filed  
 2 the report; and

3 “(B) with regard to any items referred to  
 4 in the suspected illegal sales activity form that  
 5 are consumable or that are medical diagnostic  
 6 tests, immediately suspend the ability of any  
 7 transient vendor or user who is referred to in  
 8 the form as selling or distributing the items to  
 9 conduct transactions involving the items, and  
 10 notify the Attorney General of such action in  
 11 the suspicious activity report.

12 “(3) DUTIES OF OPERATORS OF PHYSICAL RE-  
 13 TAIL MARKETPLACES AND ONLINE RETAIL MARKET-  
 14 PLACES TO TERMINATE SALES ACTIVITY.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an operator of a  
 16 physical retail marketplace or an online retail  
 17 marketplace is presented with a suspected ille-  
 18 gal sales activity form and accompanying docu-  
 19 mentary evidence from an authorized person,  
 20 the operator shall determine, based on the  
 21 form, the documentary evidence, and the ac-  
 22 count review conducted by the operator, wheth-  
 23 er there is clear and convincing evidence that  
 24 the transient vendor of the physical retail mar-  
 25 ketplace, a user of the online retail market-

1 place, or a director, officer, employee, or agent  
2 of the transient vendor or user, has used or is  
3 using the retail marketplace to sell or distribute  
4 items that were stolen, embezzled, or obtained  
5 by fraud, false pretenses, or other illegal means,  
6 or has engaged in or is engaging in structuring.  
7 The operator shall describe the determination of  
8 the operator under this subparagraph in the  
9 suspicious activity report.

10 “(B) ACTIONS.—If the operator of a phys-  
11 ical retail marketplace or an online retail mar-  
12 ketplace determines that there is clear and con-  
13 vincing evidence of an activity described in sub-  
14 paragraph (A), the operator shall, not later  
15 than 5 days after submitting the suspicious ac-  
16 tivity report to the Attorney General pursuant  
17 to paragraph (2), either—

18 “(i) terminate the ability of the tran-  
19 sient vendor to conduct business at the  
20 physical retail marketplace or terminate  
21 the ability of the user to conduct trans-  
22 actions on the online retail marketplace,  
23 and notify the Attorney General of such  
24 action; or

1           “(ii)(I) request that the transient ven-  
2           dor or user present documentary evidence  
3           that the operator reasonably determines to  
4           be clear and convincing showing that the  
5           transient vendor or user has not used the  
6           retail marketplace to sell or distribute  
7           items that were stolen, embezzled, or ob-  
8           tained by fraud, false pretenses, or other  
9           illegal means, or has not engaged in or is  
10          not engaging in structuring; and

11          “(II)(aa) if the transient vendor or  
12          user fails to present the information within  
13          30 days of the request, terminate the abil-  
14          ity of the transient vendor to conduct busi-  
15          ness at the physical retail marketplace or  
16          terminate the ability of the user to conduct  
17          transactions on the online retail market-  
18          place, and notify the Attorney General of  
19          such action; or

20          “(bb) if the transient vendor or user  
21          presents the information within 30 days,  
22          then the operator shall report the informa-  
23          tion to the Attorney General and notify the  
24          transient vendor or user that the operator

1 will not terminate the activities of the  
 2 transient vendor or user.

3 “(C) ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORIZA-  
 4 TION.—The Attorney General or a designee  
 5 may, with respect to the timing of the opera-  
 6 tor’s actions pursuant to this paragraph, direct  
 7 the operator in writing and for good cause to  
 8 delay such action.

9 “(4) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—

10 “(A) RETAIL MARKETPLACES.—Each oper-  
 11 ator of a physical retail marketplace and each  
 12 operator of an online retail marketplace shall  
 13 maintain—

14 “(i) a record of all suspected illegal  
 15 sales activity forms and accompanying doc-  
 16 umentary evidence presented to it pursuant  
 17 to this subsection for 3 years from the date  
 18 the operator received the form and evi-  
 19 dence;

20 “(ii) a record of the results of all ac-  
 21 count reviews conducted pursuant to this  
 22 subsection, and any supporting documenta-  
 23 tion, for 3 years from the date of the re-  
 24 view; and

1                   “(iii) a copy of any suspicious activity  
2                   report filed with the Attorney General pur-  
3                   suant to this subsection, and the original  
4                   supporting documentation concerning any  
5                   report that it files, for 3 years from the  
6                   date of the filing.

7                   “(B) ONLINE RETAIL MARKETPLACE.—  
8                   Each operator of an online retail marketplace  
9                   shall maintain, for 3 years after the date a user  
10                  becomes a high volume seller, the name, tele-  
11                  phone number, e-mail address, valid physical  
12                  postal address, and any other identification in-  
13                  formation that the operator receives about the  
14                  high volume seller.

15                  “(5) CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS.—No op-  
16                  erator of a physical retail marketplace or online re-  
17                  tail marketplace, and no director, officer, employee  
18                  or agent of the operator, may notify any individual  
19                  or entity that is the subject of a suspicious activity  
20                  report or of an account review under paragraph (2)  
21                  of the fact that the operator filed the report or per-  
22                  formed the account review, or of any information  
23                  contained in the report or account review.

24                  “(6) HIGH VOLUME SELLERS.—

1           “(A) VALID POSTAL ADDRESS.—An oper-  
 2           ator of an online retail marketplace shall re-  
 3           quire each high volume seller to provide the op-  
 4           erator with a valid physical postal address.

5           “(B) FAILURE TO PROVIDE.—

6           “(i) IN GENERAL.—If a high volume  
 7           seller has failed to provide a valid physical  
 8           postal address as required in this para-  
 9           graph, the operator of the online retail  
 10          marketplace shall, not later than 5 days  
 11          after the failure to provide the address, no-  
 12          tify the user of its duty to provide a valid  
 13          physical postal address.

14          “(ii) CONTINUED FAILURE.—If a high  
 15          volume seller has failed to provide a valid  
 16          physical postal address 15 days after the  
 17          date on which the operator of an online re-  
 18          tail marketplace provides notice under  
 19          clause (i), the operator shall—

20                 “(I) terminate the ability of the  
 21                 user to conduct transactions on mar-  
 22                 ketplace; and

23                 “(II) not later than 15 days after  
 24                 that date, file a suspicious activity re-

port with the Attorney General of the  
United States.

“(C) POSTAL ADDRESS.—If an authorized  
person submits to the operator of a physical re-  
tail marketplace or online retail marketplace a  
suspected illegal sales activity form that alleges  
illegal activity on the part of a specific transient  
vendor or user that is a high volume seller, the  
operator shall, not later than 15 days after re-  
ceiving the form, provide the valid physical  
postal address of the high volume seller to the  
authorized person.

“(7) CONTENTS OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY RE-  
PORTS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate  
regulations establishing a suspicious activity report  
form. Such regulations shall require that a sus-  
picious activity report submitted by an operator to  
the Attorney General pursuant to paragraph (2) or  
(6) shall contain, in a form to be determined by the  
Attorney General, the following information:

“(A) The name, address, telephone num-  
ber, and e-mail address of the individual or en-  
tity that is the subject of the report, to the ex-  
tent known.



1           “(B) Any other information that is in the  
2           possession of the operator filing the report re-  
3           garding the identification of the individual or  
4           entity that is the subject of the report.

5           “(C) A copy of the suspected illegal sales  
6           activity form and documentary evidence that led  
7           to the filing of a report pursuant to paragraph  
8           (2).

9           “(D) A detailed description of the results  
10          of an account review conducted pursuant to  
11          paragraph (2).

12          “(E) A statement of the determination the  
13          operator made pursuant to paragraph (3)(A).

14          “(F) If the suspicious activity report is  
15          filed pursuant to paragraph (6), a summary of  
16          the events that led the operator to terminate  
17          the ability of the user to conduct transactions  
18          on marketplace.

19          “(G) The signature of the operator.

20          “(H) Such other information as the Attor-  
21          ney General may by regulation prescribe.

22          “(c) VOLUNTARY REPORTS.—Nothing in this section  
23          prevents an operator of a physical retail marketplace or  
24          online retail marketplace from voluntarily reporting to a  
25          Federal, State, or local government agency any suspicious

1 activity that the operator believes is relevant to the pos-  
 2 sible violation of any law or regulation, provided that the  
 3 operator also complies with the requirements of this sec-  
 4 tion.

5 “(d) STRUCTURING.—No individual or entity shall  
 6 engage in structuring as defined in this section.

7 “(e) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual or entity  
 9 who knowingly commits a violation of, or knowingly  
 10 fails to comply with, the requirements specified in  
 11 paragraph (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of subsection (b)  
 12 or subsection (d) shall be liable to the United States  
 13 Government for a civil penalty of not more than  
 14 \$10,000 per violation.

15 “(2) FALSE STATEMENTS.—

16 “(A) SUSPECTED ILLEGAL SALES ACTIVITY  
 17 FORMS.—Any person who knowingly and will-  
 18 fully makes any material false or fictitious  
 19 statement or representation on a suspected ille-  
 20 gal sales activity form or accompanying docu-  
 21 mentary evidence may, upon conviction thereof,  
 22 be subject to liability under section 1001.

23 “(B) SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORT.—Any  
 24 person who knowingly and willfully makes any  
 25 material false or fictitious statement or rep-

resentation in any suspicious activity report required under subsection (b) may, upon conviction thereof, be subject to liability under section 1001.

“(f) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

“(1) CIVIL ACTION.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of that State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by any person or entity who has committed or is committing a violation of this section, the attorney general, official, or agency of the State, as *parens patriae*, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States of appropriate jurisdiction—

“(A) to enjoin further violation of this section by the defendant;

“(B) to obtain damages on behalf of the residents of the State in an amount equal to the actual monetary loss suffered by such residents; or

“(C) to impose civil penalties in the amounts specified in subsection (e).

“(2) WRITTEN NOTICE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall serve  
 2           prior written notice of any civil action under  
 3           paragraph (1) upon the Attorney General of the  
 4           United States, including a copy of its com-  
 5           plaint, except that if it is not feasible for the  
 6           State to provide such prior notice, the State  
 7           shall serve such notice immediately upon insti-  
 8           tuting such action.

9           “(B) ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.—Upon  
 10          receiving a notice respecting a civil action under  
 11          subparagraph (A), the Attorney General of the  
 12          United States shall have the right—

13               “(i) to intervene in such action;

14               “(ii) upon so intervening, to be heard  
 15               on all matters arising therein; and

16               “(iii) to file petitions for appeal.

17          “(3) STATE POWERS PRESERVED.—For pur-  
 18          poses of bringing any civil action under this sub-  
 19          section, nothing in this chapter shall prevent an at-  
 20          torney general of a State from exercising the powers  
 21          conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the  
 22          State to conduct investigations or to administer  
 23          oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of  
 24          witnesses or the production of documentary and  
 25          other evidence.

1           “(4) PENDING FEDERAL ACTION.—Whenever a  
 2       civil action has been instituted by the Attorney Gen-  
 3       eral of the United States for violation of any rule  
 4       prescribed under subsection (e), no State may, dur-  
 5       ing the pendency of such action instituted by the At-  
 6       torney General of the United States, institute a civil  
 7       action under this subsection against any defendant  
 8       named in the complaint in such action for any viola-  
 9       tion alleged in the complaint.

10           “(5) JURISDICTION.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any civil action  
 12       brought under this subsection in a district court  
 13       of the United States may be brought in the dis-  
 14       trict in which the defendant is found, is an in-  
 15       habitant, or transacts business or wherever  
 16       venue is proper under section 1391 of title 28.

17           “(B) PROCESS.—Process in an action  
 18       under this subsection may be served in any dis-  
 19       trict in which the defendant is an inhabitant or  
 20       in which the defendant may be found.

21           “(g) NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in  
 22       this section shall be interpreted to authorize a private  
 23       right of action for a violation of any provision of this sec-  
 24       tion, or a private right of action under any other provision

1 of Federal or State law to enforce a violation of this sec-  
 2 tion.”.

3 (b) CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The chapter analysis for  
 4 chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
 5 by inserting after the item relating to section 2323 the  
 6 following:

“Sec. 2324. Physical and online retail marketplaces.”.

7 **SEC. 5. NO PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.**

8 No provision of this Act, including any amendment  
 9 made by this Act, shall be construed as indicating an in-  
 10 tent on the part of Congress to occupy the field in which  
 11 that provision or amendment operates, including criminal  
 12 penalties, to the exclusion of any State law on the same  
 13 subject matter that would otherwise be within the author-  
 14 ity of the State, unless there is a positive conflict between  
 15 that provision or amendment and that State law so that  
 16 the 2 cannot consistently stand together.

17 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 The amendments made by this Act take effect 120  
 19 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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